

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for creating a link in a computer network,
comprising the step of storing last modified timestamp
5 information indicative of a last modification time of each
object and/or latest version information of each object in a
validity check field for linking to a multimedia document.

2. A method for checking a link validity in a computer
10 network, comprising the steps of:

a) storing last modified timestamp information indicative
of a last modification time of each object and/or latest
version information of each object in a validity check field
upon creating a link;

15 b) reading location data pre-stored in a location data
field and determining whether a multimedia document for
referencing is present at a location indicated by the read
location data; and

c) extracting predetermined information from the
20 multimedia document if it is determined at said step b) that
said multimedia document is present at said location,
determining whether the extracted information is the same as
that pre-stored in said validity check field, performing a
referencing process if the extracted information is the same
25 as that pre-stored in said validity check field and performing

a referencing error process if the extracted information is not the same as that pre-stored in said validity check field.

3. The method as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising
5 the step of:

d) storing a linked Internet address, an object index number, an object class number or an object locator in said location data field.

10 4. An apparatus for checking a link validity in a computer network, comprising storage means having a validity check field for storing last modified timestamp information indicative of a last modification time of each object and/or latest version information of each object, whereby said
15 apparatus is adapted to check the validity of a link using information pre-stored in said validity check field upon creating the link.

5. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 4, wherein said
20 information pre-stored in said validity check field includes last modified timestamp information indicative of a last modification time of each object and/or latest version information of each object.